

**UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

POSITION: SPECIAL MASTER

OPENING DATE: May 23, 2005

CLOSING DATE: June 20, 2005 (deadline for *receipt* of applications)

SALARY: \$149,200 (as provided by 42 U.S.C. 300 § aa-12(c)(5))

The United States Court of Federal Claims is seeking to fill two Special Master positions. The Court intends to fill one during the current fiscal year (FY2005). The second position, contingent upon the receipt of expected funding, would begin in FY2006.

Position Overview

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. § 300aa -10 through 34 (2000)) vests jurisdiction in the United States Court of Federal Claims over vaccine injury and death cases. Special Masters, who are appointed by the Court's judges, serve four-year terms subject to reappointment for additional four-year terms. The Special Masters function as the trial judges in the vaccine cases. They oversee all aspects of record development, conduct evidentiary hearings and issue final decisions, subject to appeal, on entitlement to compensation, damages and attorney's fees and costs. Alternative dispute resolution processes are frequently used to resolve issues, and demonstrated experience is a benefit.

Qualifications

In general, Special Masters should have facility with managing large caseloads, supervising law clerks and secretaries, writing opinions, and conducting courtroom proceedings. In addition, Special Masters rule on motions and evidentiary issues. The position requires maturity, facility with the principles of litigation, demeanor appropriate to the position, and experience working with complex factual issues including an exposure to medical issues.

To qualify for the position, an applicant:

- Must be a US citizen and member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, territory, or the District of Columbia for a minimum of five years.
- Must have at least five years of experience in the active practice of law or other legal experience which is suitable as a substitute in the opinion of the Court, such as:
 - (1) Judge of a state court of record, judge of a federal agency board, Administrative Law Judge, or Hearing Officer;
 - (2) Attorney for federal or state agencies;
 - (3) Law clerk to a judge or judicial officer; or
 - (4) Professor of law.
- Must have demonstrated professional competence, including an ability to deal with complicated legal problems, an aptitude for legal scholarship and writing, and the high

- professional regard of other lawyers. Tort litigation experience and medical-related knowledge and experience are desirable.
- Must have demonstrated familiarity with the federal court system, including knowledge of the Federal Rules of Evidence and the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims (which are patterned on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure). Recent litigation before the federal bench may indicate familiarity with federal rules and procedures.
 - Must be willing to travel.
 - As a condition of employment, each selected candidate must successfully complete an in-depth background investigation and Internal Revenue tax check and is subject to 5-year update investigations similar to the initial one.

Information for Applicants

The best qualified applicants will be invited for in-person interviews in Washington, D.C.

Due to the large number of applications anticipated, only those applicants invited for interviews will be contacted by the Court.

Applicants selected for interviews must travel at their own expense.

Interview and relocation expenses will not be reimbursed.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, writing sample(s) (not to exceed a maximum of 50 pages), and three references (name, affiliation, and contact information) from persons who are familiar with your work to:

John S. Buckley, Esq.
Chief of Staff, Chief Judge Edward J. Damich
United States Court of Federal Claims
Suite 701
717 Madison Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

No telephone calls please.